

THE GATEWAY

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Expert says slavery not truly abolished

KERRY PRECHT
News Writer

Twenty-seven million people worldwide are enslaved. They work in the cocoa, sugar, and steel industries; some are domestic labourers in the United States and others are sex workers in Thailand. In 2003, how did we get to this place?

Dr. Kevin Bales, the world's leading authority on contemporary slavery, addressed that question for a packed crowd at the Horowitz Theatre Monday night in the University of Alberta's fifth annual Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights.

"I want to make it clear that we're talking about slavery," he began. "We're not talking about sweatshops [or] people who have really bad jobs. We're talking about people who are truly enslaved, who are controlled by violence, and who receive no pay."

PLEASE SEE SLAVERY • PAGE 2



SCOTT PFEIFER The 26-year-old second is completing an MBA while blasting through the curling ranks with Randy Ferbey, Marcel Rocque and David Nedohin.

Albertan Brier champ reflects on school, family and the game

JOEL CHURY
Sports Writer

March madness hasn't arrived yet, but for one University of Alberta student, it already has. Taking a full week off to go to Halifax, MBA student Scott Pfeifer partook in the 2003 Nokia Brier. The 26-year-old shot second and swept for the record-breaking Alberta

team led by skip Randy Ferbey.

Team Alberta made it into the record books by being the first team to win three consecutive Briers, and also by going undefeated during the entire tournament. The team had to play in a final match versus the home team from Nova Scotia. In 2002, the Alberta team was the home favourite, as the tournament was held in Calgary.

The crowd had a different effect this year, according to Pfeifer. "We had experienced having the support on our side when we played in Calgary; this year was the opposite."

"It was a very electric crowd, and we used it as a motivational factor. We knew they were cheering for the other team, but it really helped us get up for the game as well."

With the win, Pfeifer and Ferbey, with teammates Marcel Rocque and David Nedohin, clinched a berth to the 2003 Ford World Championships held in Winnipeg 5-13 April. The win was especially important to the team, as Nedohin hails from Winnipeg, and the team wanted to bring him the opportunity for a homecoming.

PLEASE SEE BRIER • PAGE 11

Bedbugs spotted in HUB units

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Writer

Catherine Yon and her roommates have an itch to scratch with HUB administration, following the bedbug infestation in their HUB Mall apartment.

This semester, Yon's roommate Jessica Colby experienced a peculiar itchiness from what appeared to be bug bites. A University doctor diagnosed Colby with scabies, a small lice-like insect which feeds off human skin. Colby's symptoms improved after applying the prescribed treatment and taking a Reading Week absence from the apartment—but when she returned, so did her symptoms.

"She started getting a lot more bites than even before," said Yon.

Discovering a mysterious bug on the window of Colby's bedroom, Yon and roommate Sherida Lorenscheit lent some clues to the mystery.

"We caught it and then put it in a baggie. ... We looked it up on the Internet and it was very similar to a bedbug. We took it to the doctor the next day and she confirmed it was a bedbug and that it had been bedbugs all along," said Lorenscheit.

HUB Mall administration also confirmed that it was a bedbug, a small insect that feeds on human blood. They scheduled a pest control inspector to

inspect the apartment, who decided fumigation was necessary.

As bedbugs can travel inside the walls, the roommates decided to inform their neighbours about their case. They were shocked to discover they weren't the only HUB Mall residents to find bedbugs in their unit. Their neighbours had already found them in their apartment that year.

"The guys next door have been fumigated three or four times; in fact she [the fumigator] is going back to do them again today. And talking to [the neighbours], they say they kill one or

two a morning. One guy had it so bad that he was sleeping on the floor of his living room. I don't want to do that," said Yon.

Both Lorenscheit and Yon are frustrated with how the HUB Mall Housing and Residence Life Office has handled the situation, and wish they had been warned in advance. Yon also said the HUB Housing and Residence Life Office told them not to inform their neighbours of the bedbugs, so as not to create a panic. Colby and another roommate have since moved out.

PLEASE SEE BEDBUGS • PAGE 2



ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

HUB BITES Bedbugs like these were found in some HUB units recently.

Canada could lose control of Northwest Passage, says prof

Countries may want to use key Arctic waterway

TINA SAWCHUK
News Writer

Canada will lose control over the Northwest Passage in the next five years if the government doesn't take action now, says U of A political science professor Dr. Morris Maduro.

Maduro, a visiting professor from the University of Regina, spoke to a small but attentive group of professors and students in U of A's Lecture on 13 March. His lecture—entitled "The Northwest Passage, Canada, and the United States: On a Collision Course in Troubled Waters"—was part of the department's series, Reshaping Globalization: Empires, Gender, Race & Class.

The Northwest Passage, a 3,500-mile-long strait through the Canadian Arctic archipelago, was first explored by Europeans in the 1570s, and was impenetrable for centuries.

Enter global warming, said Maduro. Arctic ice is melting at a rate of nine per cent every year, and areas the size of Alberta disappear every decade.

"In five years, the Passage will be navigable in the summer, and in ten years, in the winter," Maduro warned.

"This will become one of the hottest

issues dividing Canada from the US."

The rest of the world is watching, he said. The Panama Canal is currently the main route for trans-oceanic shipping, but rising tolls, Panama's unstable government, and the threat of terrorism have forced European, and particularly American businesses to look north.

"This will become one of the hottest issues dividing Canada from the US."

MORRIS MADURO, U OF A POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

"For 25 years, they've goaded Canada, tweaked its nose and sent vessels through [the passage]," Maduro said.

But international law also works against Canada, said Maduro.

Under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, a United Nations document ratified by over 150 countries, the Northwest Passage is one of 110 straits worldwide to be classified as "critical."

PLEASE SEE PASSAGE • PAGE 3

7 After a slumberous hibernation, Ms. Cunningham is prepped and ready to deliver sound advice. This time? People being nice aren't trying to humpty you. Really. Listen for once.

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Outside

Thursday Sun and cloud, welcome to Acme crimenet. gumshoes, High 3, Low 3
Friday Sunny, and here's special agent in charge of training new recruits, Greg Lee: High 6, Low 5
Saturday Cloud and sun, attention! Acme Detective Agency intercepts a call from Carmen High 5, Low 5
Sunday Sunny, do it Rockapell! High 3, Low 1
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Go ninja go? Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze was deemed a half-shelled attempt at an adventure flick by the Gateway. Revealed the reviewer, "I knew this one would bite. ... When I saw the ads proclaiming 'Featuring Vanilla Ice!' I just about gagged. In fact, the scene with his dance-niece is a teeth-gritter but mercifully short." Though the reviewer found the kung fu fight scenes watchable, the "cool violence" of the original turtle flick was noted to be lacking in Ooze.

1991

Correction

Last issue, the Gateway reported that the General Faculty Council had announced the decision to cut funding to faculties in December 2001. The decision was in fact made by the Board of Governors.



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Anybody else seen eerie parallels between the Cold War and today? Kristine Oviatt sure has. Check out her feature on wartime paranoia in America. Timely, nest-ce pas?

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Slaves today are more disposable than ever: Bales

SLAVERY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

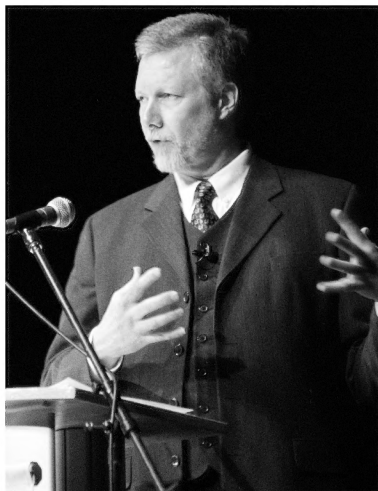
As director of Free the Slaves, a US-based anti-slavery non-governmental organization, Bales knows what he's talking about. His book *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* was a Pulitzer Prize nominee, and in 2000, he was awarded the Italian Premio Viareggio award for service to humanity.

Bales said slavery cannot be reduced to a simple equation of good vs evil if it is to be understood.

"Slavery is actually a relationship. It's a social and an economic relationship, which is grossly unequal, marked by violence [and] horrific exploitation."

In the last 50 years, the slavery relationship has changed in ways "that are greater, more dramatic, and in many ways, more deadly than in all the history of slavery," explained Bales.

Slavery used to be a long-term relationship, but today, slaves are disposable. In 1850s America, a 19-year-old, healthy, male agricultural worker cost the equivalent of \$38 000 and generated an annual profit of five per cent. Today, men of the same description are bought for as little as \$40, even though they generate profits of higher than 800 per cent each year.



FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM Anti-slavery activist Dr Kevin Bales spoke Monday. PHILIP HAD

supplies of raw materials not produced by slaves.

Instead, Bales encouraged the audience to create awareness and find like-minded individuals with whom to take collective action.

"What good is the enormous economic and political power that we hold if we can't use it to end slavery?" challenged Bales.

"Our job is to make sure that countries enforce their own laws and that slaves, when freed, have an opportunity for rehabilitation, reintegration, and education."

Free the Slaves has recently seen success with the Chocolate Protocol, which will see chocolate producers taking responsibility for their production chain and bankrolling the removal of slave and child labour from their

organizations.

Bales said the job left for this generation is an easy one, because the abolitionists of the past have already won the legal, economic, and moral battles.

Despite its persistence, slavery is illegal everywhere. No economies will crumble if slavery is ended tomorrow. And morally, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights asserts no one should be victimized by slavery, said Bales.

"You have the phenomenal good fortune to be living in the generation that could actually be the generation that is able to say, through all of human history, slavery has ridden on our backs like an ugly spirit but we're the generation that brought it to an end."

Bedbugs not a widespread HUB issue, says Housing Manager

BEDBUGS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"All of us have midterms and papers to write, we hadn't slept in weeks, we were worried about bugs, we had to put our apartment back together after they fumigated.... Our main concern should be our studies," Yon said.

But Darlene Lipinski, Senior Housing Manager for Housing and Food Services, said HUB Mall residents are not discouraged from warning others, but a panic would be unnecessary in this situation. Lipinski said the bedbugs in the units of Yon and her neighbours were the only cases she was aware of, and thus not considered a HUB-wide problem.

As for warning residents in advance, Lipinski said notifications are only issued when the fumigator determines there is a particularly bad infestation, which was not found in these situations.

"They're the professionals, and we rely on them to give the information," said Lipinski.

Lipinski added that HUB Mall residence has a higher incidence of bedbugs due to many international students in HUB who may pick up bugs in luggage during travel, as well as the many pieces of second-hand furniture students use. There is no inspection of furniture for pests, Lipinski explains, as it is both expensive and a violation of students' freedoms.

In the end, she described the University as very diligent in responding to the complaints.

"I don't say there is a concern about this spreading, because we're working very closely with [the fumigators] and instructing students as to what they should and should not be doing. I think those are all positive ways of rectifying the problem."

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PRESERVING SOVEREIGNTY U of A prof Morris Maduro warns we could lose control of our famed Northwest Passage.

Prof says Canada shy to save Passage

PASSAGE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Canada is powerless to limit access to and travel through the Passage.

Maduro also emphasized environmental concerns. Canada already has 624 shipping accidents annually, which harm wildlife and cost millions to clean up.

If an oil spill occurred, like that of the Exxon Valdez in 1989, which spilled eleven million tonnes of crude oil into the Passage, the Arctic ecosystem would be catastrophically affected.

Yet the Canadian government will do nothing, he argued. Maduro's contacts in the Department of External Affairs told him, "We don't want to wake the sleeping lion. We hope the melting won't occur."

Canadian military commitment in the Arctic is minimal, he described. There are army bases at Inuvik in Nunavut and Alert in the Northwest Territories, 1500 mobile Inuit Rangers,

and 500 soldiers stationed in Yellowknife.

But despite international laws preventing submarines from travelling submerged in straits, the Canadian navy sighted twelve periscopes near Baffin Island in August and September of 2000.

"[Canadian folk singer] Stan Rogers called the Passage 'one warm line through a land so wide and savage.' The line's widening, and Canadian sovereignty is going to be savaged."

**TOM KEATING, U OF A
POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR**

Maduro called on Canada to present the Passage as an "unusual" body of water because of its unique length, navigational hazards, and ecosystem, and said he believed Canada could secure special recognition and international funding for the Passage's protection.

Dr Tom Keating, the respondent to Maduro's lecture and a fellow professor in the department, stressed the controversy will reshape the way Canadians see their country.

He suggested bilateral cooperation with Americans to reduce the future economic pressure of maintaining the Passage for shipping and to develop commercial opportunities. But Canada must act quickly, said Keating.

"[Canadian folk singer] Stan Rogers called the Passage 'one warm line through a land so wide and savage.' The line's widening, and Canadian sovereignty is going to be savaged."

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by **Barrie Tanner**
(btanner@ualberta.ca)

LOITERING IN HUB

While on patrol in HUB on 13 March, officers came across a suspicious-looking person. After running a check on his name, officers found he had four outstanding warrants, most for theft and break-and-enter offences, as well as an extensive criminal record. He was trespassed and handed over to Edmonton Police Services (EPS).

PATROL PICKS UP SIX IN HUB

On 12 March at 4:55pm, a resident of HUB called Campus Security to report a rowdy group hanging out near the mailboxes. Constables arrived and found four males and two females in the area.

Further investigation revealed that all the male suspects had extensive criminal records, including robbery and violence-related offences. One man had a warrant from Ontario, six from the Sherwood Park RCMP, and was wanted in Manitoba. Another man had eleven warrants, and one of the females had been reported missing.

The group was trespassed, while two of the males were arrested and handed over to EPS.

EXPENSIVE FIGHT LEAVES TWO INJURED

Just before 1:30pm on 14 March, a student reported a group of males fighting on 17 Street near Mackenzie Hall of the Lister Hall complex. Officers arrived to find two bloodied males fighting in the middle of the road, one holding the other in a chokehold and punching him in the face. One had blood oozing

from his ear where an earring had been ripped off during the struggle. They were separated and arrested for causing a disturbance. Both were students and admitted to having 10-15 drinks each. Both were issued \$250 tickets for fighting in public and escorted to their residences.

LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE IN TIMMS

Just before 11pm on 15 March, an Auxiliary Officer observed a suspicious male near the east loading docks of the Timms Centre. He displayed signs of intoxication, and further investigation revealed he had a criminal record and outstanding warrants for theft. Officers found half a bottle of Big Bear on his person, issued him a trespass notice and public intoxication ticket, then handed him over to EPS.

NEXT STOP?

At about 11:45pm on 15 March, Transit Security requested assistance for a male passed out on a bus. Officers arrived to find a male unconscious and unresponsive, emanating a strong odour of alcohol.

He was carried off the bus and placed on a bench, where he faded in and out of consciousness. He woke up minutes later and became aggressive, mentioning violently with his fists, and was placed under arrest for public intoxication. He began to complain of chest pains, indicating he was on medication and had taken all of his pills. Emergency Medical Services was contacted and officers remained with the suspect in the ambulance until he could be released to hospital security for treatment.

DRUNK LISTERITE TAKES ON AUXILIARY OFFICERS...AND LOSES

Just past midnight on 16 March, an intoxicated male refused to leave The Ship lounge in Lister Hall. The man

refused to cooperate with door staff or Auxiliary Officers in the area and, after a short scuffle, had to be arrested by officers for assault by trespass. The suspect was brought back to the Campus Security offices and Edmonton Police arrived shortly thereafter. Both agencies decided not to charge the student criminally, but Code of Student Behaviour charges are likely to be laid. The student was issued a ticket for public intoxication and released into the care of a Lister Residence Life Assistant.

ALERT STUDENT AVERTS POTENTIAL CRIMES

On 17 March at 8:50pm, a student reported by cellphone that two males were drinking mouthwash in a second-floor Fine Arts stairwell. Officers arrived and discovered both had extensive criminal histories, including violence and sexual offences. Both were escorted from campus and four bottles of Listerine were disposed of.

Numerous potential crimes have been averted by students such as this who decided to call in.

"One of the important goals of Campus Security is to raise awareness of the student body as a whole and, in doing so, make students and staff less likely to become victims," said Sergeant Darcy Pennock, who heads up the Community and Crime Prevention Services department at Campus Security. "We rely on the community to take an active interest and to be an extra set of eyes and ears for our officers."

"Our responsibility is to make any caller feel comfortable reporting to us, regardless of how minor an incident may be, and to ensure they get a professional level of service when they do call in," continued Pennock.

If you see a crime in progress or a suspicious-looking person, don't hesitate to contact Campus Security at 492-5050.

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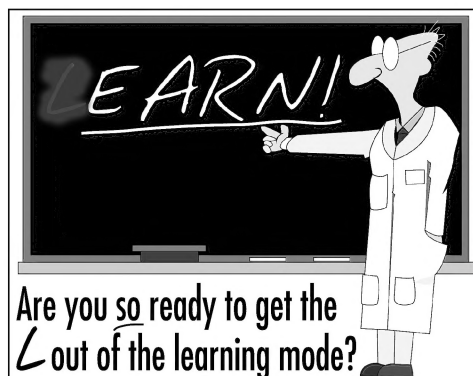
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THESE LYRICS FROM DAVID BOWIE'S TUNE "All the Young Dudes," originally written for Mott the Hoople, are of particular relevance on a day like today.

Wednesday, at approximately 8:15pm MST, President Bush declared that "American and coalition forces" were in the early stages of disarming Iraq.

ISNT WAR DEAD?

Back in 1992, I was a young back of twelve, concerned with little more than video games, baseball and my curious, rapidly increasing interest in girls. Sometime that year, sitting in a social studies classroom with a teacher whose name evades me now, I boldly and innocently asserted that I thought war was dead. The Middle East clash of 1990-1991 seemed like a silly pockmark of the visage of North American history, a simple blunder that didn't last long, didn't prove anything, and simply shouldn't have happened. Gone, far gone, was the Vietnam clash, and the Wars of the World, volumes One and Two, were so far removed from my short existence that games like *Risk* seemed surreal, almost cute.

War, it seemed to me then, was an instrument of the past. With free public education, a comfortable home and a room of my own loaded with gizmos, my daily worries ranged from styling my hair to dealing with that dick with the Vans shoes and the plaid shirt.

I wondered, aloud in my social studies class, how we could bring ourselves, as a nation, to possibly kill others for harm. How can a country that pushes such bold punishments for civic assault (even to dicks) feasibly support the dated idea of marching into physical combat for the good of the state?

NO, IT ISN'T

Wednesday, with bombs falling on Iraq, the first waves halting Normal Life occurred: Major League Baseball cancelled its season opener at Japan's Tokyo Dome, rescheduling the tilt between the Seattle Mariners and the Oakland A's to 3 April and 30 June in Oakland.

"It would be unfair and terribly unsettling for them to be a half a world away—away from their families at this critical juncture," said MLB commissioner Bud Selig. Selig's move, like so many he makes, was a mistake.

Bush has wanted war for a while, and my twelve-year-old assertions have been proven ridiculously false. The last thing, the worst thing, that we can do now, however, is stand by while the tirade continues. In the fashion of the NCAA basketball tournament, which will roll without a hitch, Major League Baseball, and indeed all sports and regular functions, must continue for the good of our own lives.

This doesn't mean we should ignore what's happening in Iraq, but like any tragedy, we can't just hang out and watch Bush's strange war machine launch into play. The best protest we can mount, at this juncture, is to proceed as normal.

Indeed, the best fuel for a bully or a suicidal Billy is to allow them to believe that bullying or threatening suicide gives them power. Bush's war juggernaut will be difficult to stop, but that doesn't mean we have to act like an idiot passersby at a crash scene.

BOWIE THE WISE

I'm not sure what Bowie was really trying to say in "Dudes," but his tune again proves useful here:

*All the young dudes
Carry the news
Boogaloo dudes
Carry the news*

Boogaloo, man or woman. Carry the news—play your sports, keep at your job, and don't be caught oogling the weird scene Bush has created. It'll only fuel him.

*I realize, of course, the hypocrisy of this editorial. But one mark for the good of the rest, I say.

BRENDAN PROCE
Sports Editor

LETTERS

Black's 'rights' are actually preferences

I am a smoker. I like to kick back with a duMaurier and a Tom Collins after a good meal. Matthew Black apparently does not share this preference ("Anti-smoking bylaws inevitable and right," 18 March).

Now, Mr Black would have you believe that his "right" to enjoy a meal in a smoke-free restaurant supersedes my "right" to have my after-dinner smoke. I'm afraid that I'm going to have to call bullshit on this one. These are not legitimate rights, but are mere preferences.

The true victims of the City of Edmonton's proposed bylaw, as well as the one already in place, are the restaurant and bar owners whose businesses will be affected by this bylaw. Mr Black, City Council, and the anti-tobacco lobby have fraudulently classified restaurants and bars as "public places." These are private businesses, and should be run by those who actually own these properties, not a bunch of downs who whimsically erect giant aluminum baseball bats on street corners with taxpayer money.

The anti-smoking lobby has as much legitimacy to tell a private business owner how to run his establishment as they do to come into your house and tell you what colour to paint your living room. You do not have a "right" to go to a smoke-free restaurant, or to any restaurant for that matter. This is a privilege offered by the business owners.

Having said that, smart business owners will make whatever decisions they can to keep their customers happy and their money coming in. There is a market for non-smoking restaurants, as well as owners who are willing to voluntarily run these establishments. The decision by restaurant and bar owners to go smoke-free should be voluntary, not as a result of coercion by City Hall.

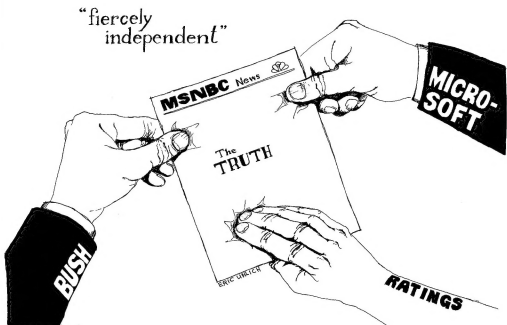
The precedence that this bylaw sets is quite dangerous. This gives City Council control over what activities may take place on private property. Today it's the pub down the street; tomorrow it could be your residence. Make no mistake about it, this is not a battle between smokers and non-smokers; it is a battle between private business owners and an oppressive government trying to run their establishments.

PAUL RWELKE
Artist IV

Old-fashioned competition should solve smoking fracas

Regarding "Anti-smoking bylaws inevitable and right," by Matthew Black, may I suggest that Matthew and all of the other non-smokers, who are so adamant, begin to frequent those, and only those, non-smoking establishments? By doing this, you'll be supporting the non-smoking establishments.

Non-smokers outnumber smokers by approximately four to one. In addition to this, non-smokers have a larger disposable income, not having to spend \$10 on a pack once every day or so. All of this cash will then entice the now empty "smoking



friendly" bars, barring the few smokers, to eliminate smoking.

This is what is called competition; it has dictated business for hundreds of years.

May I also mention that if there is now a niche for non-smoking bars, a haven for non-smokers, shouldn't at least a few bars be allowed to service my kind, the smoker? Somewhere like the current non-smoking bars? I believe we should let competition resolve this problem because, as you said, the result is "inevitable." And can't you survive for a little while, while legitimate competition solves this problem?

Isn't it convenient that the City Council's Community Service Committee is meeting to review the proposed anti-smoking bylaw on St Patrick's day, when most bar owners opposing this bylaw are extremely busy? Why not the following Tuesday or Wednesday? Could it be that Council doesn't want to acknowledge legitimate concerns? Don't be surprised if possible future anti-drinking Council meetings are held on a Friday, around 10pm.

DANIEL ELLIOT
Chemical Engineering VI

Sponsored lecture theatres better than no lecture theatres

I would like to present some counter-arguments to the views expressed by Brendan O'Neil in his 13 March letter, "Faculty of Engineering selling its identity and autonomy."

We all know that the University's lack of money, Provincial funding has decreased considerably, investments are giving poorer returns and utility costs are skyrocketing. Despite this, the Faculty of Engineering has raised some spectacular sums of money to ensure there are modern buildings and equipment for students on campus. In a five-year time frame (2001-2005) there will be four new buildings on campus (ECRE, ETLC, NREF and NINT) owing to efforts by the Faculty of Engineering. And note that engineering students aren't the only students to benefit, since the new buildings ease pressure on overcrowded facilities all over campus.

This money has been raised by the generosity of many persons, most notably U of A alumni such as the Hole family, Allan Markin, Gerald Maier and Len Grenier.

The many engineering colleges that supported these projects also contain engineering alumni in many different roles. These are people who owe their careers to a U of A engineering degree, and it is commendable that they choose to directly support post-secondary education; they want to see the record of top-quality U of A engineering education continue. The companies themselves directly benefit by having more educated employees. That is also why they are so supportive of the co-op program, since both students and industry benefit when students get hands-on experience as part of their education.

There have also been significant contributions from both the provincial and federal governments, and I'll note that none of these sources require an increase in tuition.

As to whether this corporate sponsorship has an effect on students, that's up to personal interpretation. It has no effect at all on the curriculum, but I would argue that quality of education has increased. Personally, I am more likely to work for a company if it has supported me as a student, since it shows they believe in post-secondary education and are willing to back that up with real dollars.

Besides, I'd rather have a lecture theatre with a corporate name on it than no lecture theatre at all.

DAVID WIEPHER
President
Engineering Students' Society
Mechanical Engineering IV

Bears' national final loss a sad time

I think I only missed a total of four nights of Bears volleyball all year, and until a few Saturdays ago, I hadn't seen the team lose. Needless to say, I was heartbroken to watch the boys fall to the Manitoba Bisons on Saturday night in the national final.

I was crushed that the fairy tale story, the one that would have given Ryan Taylor, Pascal Cardinal, Sandy Henderson, Brad Bell, and Colin Stephenson, the Bears' graduating players, a gold medal in their adieu to the Main Gym, fell apart. And I was annoyed that the irritating Bisons fans sitting behind me, the same ones who had attempted, on several occasions, to bribe me and my friends into cheering for Manitoba, were getting our glory.

But when the dust settled on the Bisons' win, I was touched by the still-strong enthusiasm of the crowd in the Main Gym. That the Alberta fans were still louder and more energetic after the game than the Manitoba fans was a poignant positive in an otherwise dark afternoon. The fans of the Golden Bears did themselves immensely proud all weekend.

To the Bears players, I am so sorry for the loss. You played your hearts out, and I wish you had been able to taste the gold medal you so richly deserved. Feel nothing but pride for your season overall. I hope, in the long run, that you do the same.

KATHLEEN CONWAY
Arts V

'Assholes', unfortunately, have a certain appeal

I couldn't help but be interested in Chris André's article, "Nice guys are doomed" and the advice therein (11 March). As a woman, most oft-sons caught right.

I've talked to many girls who wonder why they go for assholes. The reason I have arrived at is that we like confidence, and in our stupidity, we often mistake asshole-ness for confidence, and niceness for weakness.

Some girls like "sweet" asses, but there is a certain appeal about a man who can stand up for himself and his girl. There is nothing worse than feeling like you have to protect your boyfriend because he doesn't have the balls to do it himself—weakness is in no way appealing. So, like Chris André suggested, make a move, and don't abuse us, but do challenge us.

TESSA BOHONOS
Education III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hurtful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Racism remains widespread



IVA
CHUNG

There's this cool Chinese restaurant where I've discovered that if I order in Cantonese rather than in English, my portions miraculously double in size.

Near trick, huh?

And in another Chinese eatery, they have different language menus for their Chinese and non-Chinese patrons. Direct translation, you say? Hardly. The food on the "white people" menu is notably lower in quality, and even identical items are priced suspiciously differently. Far from being limited to an Edmonton phenomenon, there's a Chinese diner near my old apartment when I lived in Winnipeg for a summer where half a barbecue duck was \$10 for me, and \$12 for my Caucasian boyfriend.

Not all establishments are perpetrators of that kind of blatant discrimination—there are some who gratefully appreciate the business of all of their patrons regardless of race or background—but there are enough of them for this to be a common running joke among Chinese Canadians of our generation. I even have an East Indian friend who insists the same thing happens at some Indian restaurants. I'm certain that occurrences of this sort are more widespread yet, with shades of

discrimination popping up in a variety of isolated and insular communities that have for decades been accustomed to dealing only with people of their own kind and have found ways to take advantage of those who are different.

We've all been guilty of favouring those with which we feel a kinship, and if it were simply limited to the food we serve, it would still be, well, illegal and morally repugnant. But the fact is, it runs much deeper, part of a profoundly engrained prejudice and racism that's protected by the veil of tradition.

We've all been guilty of favouring those with which we feel a kinship, and if it were simply limited to the food we serve, it would still be, well, illegal and morally repugnant.

TV and Hollywood have frequently made light of the disapproval of inter-racial marriages rampant among insular racial groups, and while it's not hard to understand why my grandmother's generation might have a historically motivated resentment against the Japanese, for instance, it's not difficult to grasp that those who have spent most of their lives surrounded

by people of their own race might have preconceptions of people of another. That said, hiding or being forgiving about their discriminatory behaviour (or allowing them to spout off and perpetuate unfounded stereotypes about "white ghosts" and "black devils") is only exacerbating the problem.

It's not uncommon to hear elderly Chinese ladies on the bus discuss how East Indians are smart but opportunistic, Koreans are hard-working but chauvinistic, and Caucasians are generous but poor at budgeting and husbandry. It's so easy to dismiss them as crotchety old women who aren't keeping up with the times, but it's shortsighted to think there isn't some residue of their racist attitudes that seeps through to the youth.

The problem can go unchecked through the generations, especially since it can be buried under the covert barrier of language differences. While a Sikhhead shouting a slur to a Jewish or black individual can be understood and condemned by all, a Chinese girl murmuring "hak-gwai" to her friends isn't going to provoke any negative reactions unless it comes from within the community itself.

So, that's another reason we should note that 21 March is the *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, a day when we all have to take the responsibility to quell racism. Tolerance education should not only be targeted towards cross-burning Klan members, but also to our parents, grandparents, and others within our own communities.

Being nice is simply being nice



CORA
CUNNINGHAM

Girl: "Hi" Hi.
Boy: "How's it going?" Is she coming on to me?
Girl: "Not bad" Why is he staring at my breasts?
Boy: "It's in... not..."
[awkward silence]
Girl: "So... I'll see you later." He's such a creep.
Boy: "Yeah! For sure!" *Bling bling!*

It was supposed to be a simple conversation—it wasn't supposed to be full of knee-trembling innuendo—but one party read more into the situation than the other.

Simply saying "hi" or "hello," or taking five minutes to be communicative with others of the same species, used to be considered a social custom, but now they are assumed to be fuelled by lust, desire and passion. It's unfortunate that we forget we're not on 90210; we happen to be in real life with real people (sorry, Tori Spelling, you're not real).

Often when someone is being polite, that's all it is; they probably aren't trying to jump your freight train. Opening the door for someone shouldn't be considered hitting on someone. Wasn't there a time when men actually opened doors for women as a simple polite gesture? Wasn't there a time when people actually smiled and greeted complete strangers? Maybe I'm assuming there was because I'm an over-demanding over-hormonal over-emotional XX carrier. Maybe it's because where I was raised, if you didn't have manners, you at least pretended to have some.

And shame on anyone who actually takes pride in having a complete lack of manners, as well as those who make nice little people feel like sluts, whores or vagina wholesalers (or whatever bad names we've invented for boys) simply for being polite, for simply making eye contact.

Here's the proverb: you're supposed to look at the person you're talking to. Let me rephrase that: your supposed to look the person in the eyes. Sometimes the other party in my conversations assumes that because I'm looking them in the eye when talking to them, I'm trying to look into their soul or deep into their pants. But please, I'm checking out my reflection.

Do note, there is a difference between acknowledging someone and being Chuck-from-Goonies weird. If you stare longer than four seconds, you're being creepy.

And yes, creepy people, they're out there, but they may not be as creepy as they seem. If you keep running in the same person over and over, it may not be that their world revolves

around your beautiful face, but merely that you both have the same schedule. Imagine that...

Now the reverse to this "like" concept of mine is the "rule" concept. People who are rude are really being rude, probably not really being rude. Please don't fall for this one, as it only leads one place: Saskatchewan. Flat, dry, and composed of enough lonely people that they're considered a new demographic for marketers to focus on. It's such a waste, too. So many products have been developed for lonely folk that if rude people didn't make them lonely, the huge amounts of energy expended on them could likely have found a cure for cancer or AIDS by now, or created world peace.

All I have to say to all you rude people, then, is thank you—thank you for cancer, AIDS, and war. And for the rest of us? Have your own personal peace protest and quit reading more into your conversations than what's actually there, because no matter how hard you try, you can't add chapters to such a book.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Signs you're playing the George W Bush version of Monopoly

- 10 New metal playing pieces, like a tank, oil derrick, and Dick Cheney's head.
- 9 Instead of a "Luxury Tax," there's a "Luxury Tax Break."
- 8 If you cheat, you're rewarded with a big white house.
- 7 Kentucky Avenue, Indiana Avenue, and Illinois Avenue are now Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq.
- 6 The corners of the board have been rounded off for safety.
- 5 Most of the community chest consists of "Get out of corporate responsibility" cards.
- 4 It's actually just the George Bush Jr edition, but with more pictures, less words.
- 3 Most spaces on the board act as "Go To Jail" squares if you're not white.
- 2 You can purchase houses, hotels, and munitions factories for your property.
- 1 The only rule is that the best-armed player doesn't have to play by the rules.

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Info Session

Thursday, March 20, 2003
1pm - 3pm
Rm 402, Students' Union Building

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University of Alberta
Student Services

Application deadline date: Friday, 28 March 2003

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**Aliens nearly ruined last summer**

TREVOR
MILLER

This past summer, I turned my TV on late one night, and saw the most thrilling breaking-news presentation, explaining the single most anticipated event in human history... positive extraterrestrial contact.

I couldn't believe it! If I had any friends, I would've called them up immediately to tell them to turn to the Movie Channel to catch this real-time ground zero update, but instead I held on for the biggest thrill ride of my life.

I somehow missed the very beginning, but it seems a reporter (with a striking resemblance to Will Smith, but with a different name) awakened one morning to find his child gazing at the sky in wonderment as most of his neighbours fled to a less densely populated area. You know what was in the sky? No! UFOs! Real, no-doubt-about-it-cause-there's-no-faking-this-one UFOs!

Let me tell you, I nearly fell out of my seat, and sure was happy to be living in no-aliens-will-blow-us-up Edmonton, because the carnage these "peaceful" lifeforms unleashed made Hitler look like Santa Claus with a potato gun. Goodbye, White House—I don't think it's looked that bad since we burned it in 1812! No more will tourists flock to Rome to the Coliseum's ancient rubble, the new attraction is a collection of ancient and modern ruins. God himself couldn't pile more rubble, and that's a fact.

**The terrible calamities
wreaked upon our
"modern" civilization
will take millennia to
heal. I still hear the
crying of the baby
lambs, the poor things.**

The terrible calamities wreaked upon our "modern" civilization will take millennia to heal. I still hear the crying of the baby lambs still, the poor things. It seems that a mangy dog named Momar survived, though, and

I managed a smile at that happy fact, though tears of the deepest misery were streaking down my ruggely handsome, yet incredibly sensitive complexion.

Lucky for us, though, it seems a highly secret government organization had captured one of their "flying machines," and were able to reprogram it so a couple of movie-starlike regular Joe's could fly it.

And fly it they did, right into the belly of the colossal mothership, blowing it up and putting our take-me-to-your-leader invaders right out of commission, just like in the movies. In fact, if I remember an earlier news bulletin, it seems that one of the reporters helped save the world from an earlier threat, after an eccentric millionaire recreated the time of the dinosaurs with an almost unbelievable plot involving mosquitoes and frogs. I wish I could shake his hand, that fine and fearless example of human bravery and resilience.

But really, does anyone truly understand how much we owe to that simple Air Force pilot/reporter, the simple computer technician and Brent Spiner-like scientists, and that simple, secret and highly complex government organization?

Random thoughts, hot and fresh

TYSON
DURST

booth, I have to wonder: is he really looking at the play or still watching top-quality Swedish porn?

Random thought #2 If Saddam Hussein changed his first name to Leslie, people would probably be even less willing to go to war. "Saddam" sounds ominous but "Leslie" Who would want to hurt a guy named Leslie Hussein?

Random thought #3 If I put numbers on my random thoughts, are they really random?

Random thought #4 Are these really random thoughts or just random questions?

Random thought #5 Commercials in movie theatres suck. Trailers are fine, but if I want to watch commercials, I'll stay home. I don't need to see people enjoying their new sports car in THX surround sound and on a giant screen—unless I'm one of them.

Random thought #6 I'm single and looking for love. Are you a woman? Are you still reading this? Are you single? You are? Awesome. Let's get

together sometime.

Random Thought #7 Sometimes I wish I were a rock star, but then reality sets in and I have to be content doing air guitar to an AC/DC album.

Random Thought #8 Some people were traumatized as kids when Bambi's mom got shot. As a kid, I got upset when the horse died in *The Neverending Story* and when Mr Hooper passed away on *Sesame Street*.

Random Thought #9 You will not be popular at a PETA meeting if your lunch consists of panda steaks and dolphin-flipper soup. Tiger testicles for dessert will clinch it.

Random Thought #10 I'm confident that the Incredible Hulk could defeat Superman in a fight. If it'd be ugly and the Hulk would get knocked around, but in the end, I think he would get mad enough to take Supes down. Sex, the madder the Hulk gets, the stronger he gets.

Random Thought #11 This article will end once you finish reading this sentence. Of this, I am sure.

This is Bob. Bob's having a great time 'cause he's sitting in a Molson Half Price Single Seat.

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The truth about lies about truth



VIVEK
SHARMA

It seems the more I learn, the less I'm sure of.

In grade 10, they told me if it starts or ends with an H, it's an acid. Two years later they told me it's a bit more complicated, but I can still memorize new rules. In university they admit they're not so sure, but the rules apply in most of the cases, and if I don't remember them verbatim, I won't get the marks, so I won't get a job to pay for the lies they sold me.

I wonder: if I get a PhD, does that mean I'll climb my way back to innocence, after becoming completely desocialized after twelve years of post-secondary educational therapy? Our professors insist on knowing, and profess to achieve while realizing they know less and less. Sometimes I wonder what they're not telling me, or if I'll ever be able to afford doing a Master's degree to find out for myself. Maybe once I have letters after my name, I'll be able to pretend just as well as them.

Well, they say: if it were true, then research would have shown it. Often forgotten is that, in the past, scien-

tists, philosophers and other seekers of truth had their names remembered if they were in the right place at the right time, with the right sponsor. For example, Ralph Klein has his own ideas about what kind of scientists he wants the masses to believe in, for his own special reasons. More and more, we don't wait for the bulldozers of science to find truth behind weakening walls; we find that truth waits for us in a very different place.

Never did it occur to anyone that, in our relentless search to map out cells and atoms, somewhere along the way the deepest secrets slipped through our scientific fingers: the truth.

Never did it occur to anyone that, in our relentless search to map out cells and atoms, somewhere along the way the deepest secrets slipped through our scientific fingers: the truth. Even today, too many areas of research are viewed by academics as absurd, infantile, unprofitable. Never did it occur to us that perhaps once professors reach their tenure and publish

widely accepted theories, some might be tempted by interests other than the pursuit of truth. Why develop another theory if the one you have is selling?

So, we see a new type of research being done, because what research gets funded? Research that isn't "bleeding edge" and doesn't make venture capitalists horny at night isn't worth doing. So many professors have no choice but to rush forward like German armies, seeking to claim more and more academic territory for their own, unable to ask whether knowledge can be consolidated, fortified and utilized properly. New is exciting, and exciting is profitable.

Whatever quirk of fate has allowed you to be an authority in a conversation about history, politics, genetics or psychology, please think twice before you speak, and speak twice before you believe. Trust your own experiences more than expert opinions. Read books that aren't on the New York Times' bestsellers list. Watch movies featuring actors you don't recognize at the Princess.

Before his death, Newton revealed, "All my life I have felt as if I have been exploring a shore and looking at a few pretty shells here and there, while the whole ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me."

Never be afraid to think outside the box, lest you one day find yourself trapped inside it.

Modern campus 'bars' are pathetic



MELVIN
BACKSTROM

I'm not sure how many of you would remember, but there used to be three Students' Union-run bars on campus: RATT, the PowerPlant and Dewey's. Back when I was a youngster around these parts, Dewey's was still its own very cool self in HUB, and not the vestigial appendage of the PowerPlant it is now, mired in incredibly pathetic dullness.

It was an amazing example of a cultural and intellectual meeting space, now sorely lacking on campus. It was a place you'd actually want to meet up with friends at, a place where beer would tempt you as you walked through HUB at 10am, a place where people would pack in Friday afternoons and evenings, trying to forge the ridiculous amount of work ahead of them that weekend.

Why? Because it was a rare kind of place that actually had a discernible sense of character and soul. But sometime during the 1997-1998 school year, our wonderful Students' Union leaders decided to move Dewey's out of HUB and essentially amalgamate it with the PowerPlant. For the first couple years, it had its own bar, and therefore, managed to retain at least some degree of its own identity, but now the bar is long gone and Dewey's is little more than a pathetic reminder of a once vibrant U of A cultural institution.

So, what do we now have in HUB instead? Well, there's the Titan Lounge that is accomplishing the amazing feat of "Taking Technology Beyond" with the incredibly futuristic concept of—you'd never guess, in a million years—putting tables and chairs together. How do they come up with these brilliant ideas?

Why, before the Titan Lounge came

along to show me this near miraculous technological possibility, I'd spent untold hours of study either sitting in chairs with nothing to put my books on or kneeling beside a table wishing I weren't so damned uncomfortable. But thanks to some forward-looking individuals, I'm liberated from my perennial discomfort and can now study in the inspired surroundings of this paragon of intellectual achievement.

There still is, of course, the "In Support of the Arts" Arts Court Lounge, following in the groundbreaking path of the Titan Lounge by combining tables, chairs and—again you won't believe what they've come up—a water fountain! As someone in the faculty of arts, the apparent object of its "sup-

port," I really can't begin to describe the importance of this place and can only wonder how I would survive without it.

So, I'm convinced. Thank goodness for the Students' Union, I say. My aforementioned yearnings for the halcyon days of yesteryear are nothing but products of my own reactionary, bourgeois conditioning.

Culture? Who needs that; it's too elitist. Dewey's was a dark, smoky bar, and that's just not healthy. The two lounges we have so blessedly been given, on the other hand, are infinitely superior; well-lit, containing both tables and chairs, and without any evil vices (alcohol, cigarettes, free thinking) to tempt you.

Thank God for progress.

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ATHLETIC NOTES

Hockey

The top-ranked **Golden Bears** are in Fredrickton, NB for the CIS championship until Sunday. The team won their third consecutive Canada West title two weeks ago against Saskatchewan. This marks their seventh straight appearance in the tournament. The first game will be Thursday at 10am and can be heard live on **The Team 1260**. The gold medal game will be held on Sunday at 2:15pm and can be seen on **TSN**.

CIS MEN'S HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday, 20 March

Game 1: Alberta vs St Francis Xavier, 10am
Game 2: UQTR vs Lakehead, 4pm

Friday, 21 March

Loser Game 1 vs York, 10am
Loser Game 2 vs UNB, 4pm

Saturday, 22 March

Winner Game 1 vs York, 9am (TSN)
Winner Game 2 vs UNB, 1:30pm (TSN)

Sunday, 23 March

Bronze medal game, 8am (TSN)
Gold medal game, 2:15pm (TSN)

Dream to Skate

Ever dreamed of playing on NHL ice? The **PI Kappa Alphas** are giving you the opportunity—being the first annual *Dream to Skate* at the **Skyreach Centre** on Monday, 24 March from 10–11:30pm. The charity event gives students two 45-minute periods to choose from, the first being a **public skate** that will cost \$10/student (max 75), and the second being for **shiny hockey** at \$15/student (max 40—helmet and gloves required). Both periods together cost \$25/student.

All of the proceeds go to Alberta Minor Hockey. For tickets contact Keith Diakw @ 497-9992 or kdiakw_99@hotmail.com



ROBBIE FTOPEK History in Boston

NHL: Ftopek Fired in Beantown

For the second time in his coaching career, Boston Bruins head coach **Robbie Ftopek** was fired with less than three weeks left before the playoffs.

Along with assistant coach **Jim Hughes**, Ftopek was the seventh NHL coach to "receive a pink slip" this season. Luckily for the Bruins, the last time Ftopek was fired close to the playoffs it was by the 2000 Stanley Cup champion **New Jersey Devils**. Hopefully for Bruins fans, interim head coach/GM **Mike O'Connell** can do for the Bruins what Ftopek's last replacement, **Larry Robinson**, did for the Devils in 2000.

Ramblings Lite—with Joel Chury

The war is imminent, yet the only news I've watched lately has been hosted by **Jody Vance** and **Jim Van Horne**. Is this part of my ostrich syndrome—that if I don't read the news, it doesn't actually happen?

There is much more important shit I should be paying attention to. I don't miss one minute of NHL trade deadline coverage, but I have missed each presidential address in the last week. At what point do we put the sports away and pay attention to the things that really matter?

The NHL playoffs are coming up, and things will keep running according to plan. If we cancel the playoffs, then terrorism wins, right? At least know that if this war turns out to be as life changing as we expect it to be, I won't be giving two shits who hosts Lord Stanley's Cup this season.



FILE PHOTO: NIK BOLJANATZ

The Bears haven't had much trouble reaching the University Cup in recent years, though they haven't brought home the gold since 2000.

At the nationals, history can't repeat itself

Hockey Bears enter record 29th nationals tourney with only ten championships

BRYAN LEE
Sports Writer

They're the Atlanta Braves of university hockey.

Anyone who's been to Clare Drake Arena can see the countless Canada West and CIAU (now CIS) banners that decorate the walls. The Bears hockey program extends their long history of success with a record 29th appearance at the University Cup this weekend, being held in Fredrickton, New Brunswick.

Yet, with so many appearances, the Bears only have ten national titles to their credit. Don't get me wrong—that's nothing to shake a stick at. However, the University of Toronto also has ten, and they've done the feat in only 18 tournaments.

But the Bears are equally known for their ability to melt down in pressure games, an affliction that developed during the 1980s.

"If we don't win, it'll definitely feel like a failure," second-year defender Chris Ovington summarized.

"Obviously it's a pretty big accomplishment to win Canada West and go to nationals, but I think this program's at the point where if you don't win it all, it's a losing season."

Fellow blueliner Gavin McLeod echoed Ovington's sentiments.

"There's a lot of pressure to win. We're expected to win every year. Winning Canada West is a pretty big feat, but quite honestly, for this program, it's unacceptable. You have to have a national championship to consider it a successful year."

Give the team credit—they had another strong season, going 24-2-2 in conference play. Plus, they were ranked first overall in the country from the start to the finish of the season.

A wake-up call came two weeks ago though, in the Canada West final. They lost the first game to Saskatchewan before coming back with 4-2 and 5-2 wins to take the series.

"That was probably the best thing that could have happened to us. Last year, we walked through playoffs and then we had a game like we had last Friday against Western when all the marbles were down," said McLeod.

Surprisingly, Western won't be making the trip

this year. They were ranked second for much of the season, and were 24-0-0 before being upset by Lakehead University in the OUA semi-finals. The Bears know Lakehead is certainly a strong substitute though, as they suffered a loss and a tie to the Thunder Wolves in exhibition action back in January.

"Obviously it's a pretty big accomplishment to win Canada West and go to nationals, but I think this program's at the point where if you don't win it all, it's a losing season."

CHRIS OIVINGTON
BEARS HOCKEY DEFENCEMAN

"It says something about the level of play and calibre of the teams out there. For a team to knock off Western, it says a lot. It's going to be really tough," said team captain Blair St. Martin. "They're a fast team, with good goaltending, very similar to us," Ovington added. "I kind of hope we do see them again just so we can prove we can beat them. I didn't think we played our best against their first game."

Joining the Bears in Pool A will be York and St Francis Xavier, while Lakehead will contend with last year's silver medalist UQTR, as well as host New Brunswick in Pool B. The winners of the two pools will advance to the gold medal game on Sunday.

This marks Bears head coach Rob Daum's eighth season behind the bench. No matter what happens at nationals, there will surely be speculation in the off season as to whether he'll move up to greener (rather than greener and goldier) pastures. He was named Canada West Coach of the Year for the third consecutive season and he would love to add a third CIS title to go along with victories in 1999 and 2000. Like his team though, he's feeling the pressure.

"I don't think that we think it's a failure [if we don't win gold], but I think a lot of other people, because of the high expectations, do," he

explained. "It puts a tremendous amount of pressure on the team and I think it's really under pressure, but that's the way it is."

MEDIA COVERAGE

Both of Saturday's semifinals can be seen on TSN, at 9am and 1:30pm respectively. Should the Bears win their first game against St Francis on Thursday morning, they'd be in the earlier semi-final. TSN will also show the gold medal match on Sunday starting at 2:15pm. If you've only got peasant vision, The Team 1260AM and www.bears.ualberta.ca is broadcasting all the Alberta contests.

TOP TEN CIS SCORING LEADERS AT THE TOURNAMENT

| Player | Team | GP | G | A | PTS |
|------------------|----------|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 A Tremblay | UQTR | 21 | 32 | 24 | 56 |
| 5 S Shrum | Alberta | 27 | 22 | 21 | 43 |
| 13 J Richards | Lakehead | 20 | 23 | 15 | 38 |
| 13 B Duce | Lakehead | 24 | 14 | 24 | 38 |
| 16 P Grandmaitre | Sask | 28 | 13 | 24 | 37 |
| 18 J Lindsay | UNB | 28 | 13 | 23 | 36 |
| 18 JP Pare | Lakehead | 20 | 11 | 25 | 36 |
| 24 J Scherban | Lakehead | 24 | 11 | 24 | 35 |
| 27 W Burt | Alberta | 26 | 14 | 20 | 34 |
| 33 C Shaffer | Lakehead | 23 | 19 | 12 | 31 |

CORY CROSS BACK IN TOWN

Last week, the Oilers acquired former Bears defenceman Cory Cross from the New York Rangers as part of the Anson Carter trade. Cross played for the Bears from 1990 to 1993, including the 1992 championship season. The 6'5" Lloydminster native has 22 goals and 76 assists in over 500 career NHL games. He's also racked up 565 minutes in penalties. Cross is one of few players to make it in the NHL after playing Canadian university hockey.

CIS AWARDS—ALBERTA

The following two Bears were named to the All-Canadian squad at an awards banquet Wednesday night.

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Defenceman | Jeff Zom |
| Forward | Steve Shrum |



THINK YOU'RE BUSY? Scott Pfeifer balances his MBA schooling with world-class curling skills.

PATRICK FINLAY

Intense competition raises Alberta's curling bar, says Pfeifer

BRIER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We knew how much Dave wanted to play in front of the Winnipeg crowd. He didn't really say much, but it was on our minds," admitted Pfeifer. "It will be a real thrill to see him play in front of all his family and friends."

They almost missed the Winnipeg opportunity, as they were tied in the fifth end of the final game, while the Nova Scotians had the hammer. Their undefeated streak was threatened, but the Albertans found a way to rebound by snagging points regardless of hammer possession.

"We didn't know what we'd have to do to beat them, they were playing so well," said Pfeifer. "So to get a couple points in seven, a steal in eight, and another one in nine was more of a relief than anything."

Last year, the team had an interesting final game too. Normally, the skip has the final say on where to place shots, but Pfeifer and Rocque dissuaded Ferbey from taking a point in the fifth end by noticing another possible shot.

"The other guys were contemplating playing a shot to only get one, but then Marcel and I spotted a way to get four," said Pfeifer of the discovery. "Dave threw it great, and it worked so good that we were up 7-2, and we kept going from there."

Winning three Briers in a row has been an unattainable task by any other team, and, as the curling saying goes,

it is at the club level that winning can be the most difficult. This is especially true when you hail from Alberta, which boasts some very worthy opponents for Pfeifer's squad. From 2001 to 2002, Pfeifer served as director for the Edmonton Super League, which also boasts former Alberta representative Kevin Martin's team. "We try to get the best teams and run a successful league," said Pfeifer.

The success of Alberta teams is due to the intense competition within the province, and Pfeifer believes Alberta should be strong for the future. "We are committed now for the 2006 Olympic trials, so our team will be staying together, and I imagine Kevin Martin's team will be as well, with the success they've had."

The support for curling in Alberta is growing every year. This could be attributed to Pfeifer's team's success, the successful marketing for the Brier in Calgary last year, and the comic personalities the sport seems to produce. Most notable is the comically gifted skip Guy Hemmings, and his team from Québec.

"We got to hang out with them a few times," Pfeifer told this very jealous writer. "Right now, Guy Hemmings is by far the most popular curler in Canada, and probably the world. Anything that helps grow the sport and increases popularity is good for the game."

Also good for the game have been the

antics of other players during breaks in play, including the jig performed by Rocque during the 2002 Brier, and the spin-o-rama delivery made famous by Manitoba's Jeff Stoughton. "I can do that too," chided Pfeifer with a smile, "except Stoughton only does one rotation. I can get up to doing two or three."

On campus, the U of A curling club has a high profile. "It is one of the best curling clubs in the city," said Pfeifer. "They're doing some major expansions to the club over the next couple of years which will hopefully increase the profile of the sport in Edmonton." The major element of the expansion will be a new ten-rink facility, to replace the old Balmoral club.

Now, in preparation for the World Championships in Winnipeg, Pfeifer will be focusing on his schooling. Balancing study and curling can be tough, but he takes initiative, and still makes time for his wife Chantelle and his 16-month-old son Marlow.

"A lot of it I have taken upon my own shoulders, to make sure I get my work done when I'm not there," admits Pfeifer. "My fellow students, my faculty and their staff have all been extremely supportive, and I appreciate that."

The University should be proud to have a student with such intriguing achievements. With two World titles under his belt already, Scott Pfeifer and his team should have a good chance in Winnipeg come April.

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The 2003 Gateway Survey

Drop completed surveys at Info booths in HUB, SUB, or CAB by 12:00 pm, March 21 for your chance to win!

The Gateway Survey

This survey is being conducted on behalf of The Gateway, who are interested in better understanding who their readers are. The information you provide will help The Gateway target advertisers that would be of greater interest to its readers. Anonymity is guaranteed. We appreciate your input.

1. How often do you read The Gateway:

☐ Never ☐ Less than once a month ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly

2. With 1 being the most important to you, rank the sections of the Gateway from 1 to 7:

_____ Arts and Entertainment _____ Features _____ Sports
_____ Classifieds _____ News
_____ Comics _____ Opinions

3. On average, how long do you spend reading each section of the Gateway (in minutes)?

_____ Arts and Entertainment _____ Features _____ Sports
_____ Classifieds _____ News
_____ Comics _____ Opinions

4. How informative do you find the advertising in The Gateway?

1 2 3 4 5
Very informative Neutral Not informative at all

5. Has an ad in The Gateway ever led you to purchase or use a product or service? Yes / No

i. In the last month? Yes / No
ii. In the last 3 months? Yes / No

6. How easy is it to find The Gateway's distribution points?

1 2 3 4 5
Very Easy Neutral Very Hard

7. Would you be more likely to read The Gateway if there were more distribution points around campus? Yes / No

8. During the school year, what is your main source of income?

☐ Summer employment ☐ Student loans ☐ Part-time job
☐ Other: _____

Legend

1-awful / I hated it / not at all
2-poor / I was not impressed
3-decent / I guess so / occasionally
4-good / I was impressed
5-fantastic / I loved it / all of the time

General

Overall, how would you rate this year's Gateway? 1 2 3 4 5

What do you look for in a campus newspaper?

What would you like to see more of at the Gateway?

Which section of the paper do you read the most?
• News • Opinion • Sports • A&E • Features
Other: _____

What do you like best about the Gateway?

• Information • Humour • Design • Photos • Entertainment Value
Other: _____

What would you improve about the paper (i.e. what aren't we doing that we should be)?

• Information • Humour • Design • Photos • Entertainment Value
Other: _____

What is the most memorable article you read in the Gateway this year? Photo you looked at? Any particular reason why?

What is the worst article you read in the Gateway this year? Photo you looked at? Any particular reason why?

Have you ever thought about volunteering for the Gateway? Why or why not? Who are your favourite Gateway writers?

• Overall _____ • News _____ • Opinion _____
• Sports _____ • A&E _____ • Features _____

News

How informative do you find the news section? 1 2 3 4 5

What type of News articles do you like the most?

• Campus News • Local News • National News briefs
• People Profiles • Streeters

Do you find the News section interesting? _____

9. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? (Check all that apply)

☐ Arts/Craft ☐ Social Drinking
☐ Attending Sporting Events ☐ Shopping
☐ Playing Sports ☐ Visiting with Friends
☐ Reading/Writing ☐ Watching Movies
☐ Watching Television ☐ Working Out
☐ Yoga ☐ Other: _____

10. In a typical month, which shopping centers do you shop at? (Answer all that apply)

☐ \$0 - 99 ☐ \$100 - 199 ☐ \$200 - 299 ☐ \$300 - 399 ☐ \$400+
☐ City Center ☐ Londonderry ☐ West Edmonton Mall
☐ Jasper Avenue ☐ Whyte Avenue ☐ Southgate
☐ Kingsway ☐ South Edmonton Common
☐ Other: _____

11. In a typical month, what do you purchase? (Check all that apply)

☐ Alcohol ☐ Concert Tickets ☐ Personal Health Care Supplies
☐ Clothes ☐ Fast Food ☐ Sporting Event Tickets
☐ Cosmetics ☐ Movie Tickets/Movies ☐ Other: _____

12. Where do you live?

☐ At home (with family) ☐ On campus ☐ Off campus

13. How old are you?

☐ < 18 ☐ 18 - 20 ☐ 21 - 23 ☐ 24 - 26 ☐ 27+

14. Are you: Male / Female

*15. E-mail address: _____

*Optional - e-mail addresses will only be used to contact prize winners. Prizes consist of: monthly bus passes, symphony tickets, and most! You may drop the survey off at either the SUB, HUB, or CAB information booth.

Opinion

How would you rate this year's Opinion section? 1 2 3 4 5

How did you like the editorial cartoons? 1 2 3 4 5

What type of Opinion articles do you like the most?

a) Political commentary 1 2 3 4 5
b) Humour 1 2 3 4 5
c) Student life 1 2 3 4 5
d) Desperate cries for attention? 1 2 3 4 5

To what extent did the Opinion section provoke thought? Discussion? 1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

A&E

How would you rate the A&E section this year? 1 2 3 4 5

What type of A&E articles do you like the most?

• Film • Music • CD reviews • Site Unseen / Cultura Obscura
• Visual Arts • Theatre

Do you prefer reviews or previews?

Do you rely on the Gateway for event information? 1 2 3 4 5

Sports

How would you rate the sports section this year? 1 2 3 4 5

Did you find the coverage balanced? 1 2 3 4 5

How often do you attend campus sporting events? 1 2 3 4 5

Features

Rate the following features from one to ten (one being best, ten being worst)

a) Welcome to U of A feature
b) The Gateway (December joke issue)
c) Purity test
d) Hack-o-rama

What sort of Features would you like to see more of? _____

Photo

Did you like the photos in the paper this year? 1 2 3 4 5

Were there enough photos this year? 1 2 3 4 5

Would you like to see more photo features? 1 2 3 4 5

Design

Do you like the design of the newspaper? 1 2 3 4 5

Does the look of the paper make you pick it up? 1 2 3 4 5

Comics

Rate the Comics page from best to worst (1 worst, 5 best) 1 2 3 4 5

Rate the following comics:

☐ Deathworld ☐ Computer Blues ☐ Space Cat ☐ Varsity Happenings
☐ Blackout ☐ Laser Comics 2020 ☐ Little Corner ☐ Campus Pals
☐ Carcinoma ☐ Heyben ☐ Brooklyn & Polar ☐ Anna
☐ Feelings ☐ Other: _____

THE GATEWAY

Other general comments: _____



The Hysteria Of W

From "duck and cover" to duct and cover: fear and paranoia in American culture

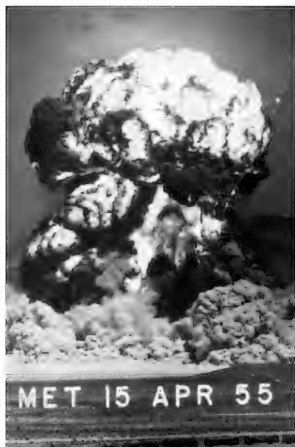
The writer LP Hartley (1895-1972) once said, "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." If Hartley were still alive today, he might be rethinking his statement.

"Much of what's being said in the United States is startlingly anachronistic, and historians can recognize it easily enough. I'm just amazed at the ignorance of history, the lack of any sense of irony."

DR ROBERT BOTHWELL

Ever since the terrorist attacks of 11 September, 2001, the general American mood has been growing increasingly more paranoid. Turn on CNN most days and you'll see a warning placed prominently on the screen, telling you the terrorist alert has been upgraded to orange, the penultimate level of alert, second only to red.

The American government recently advised its citizens to buy duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal their homes in case of a biological or chemical terrorist attack. And a good number of Americans immediately complied.



An even more disturbing outcome of 11 September, however, was America's reversion to defining right and wrong or good and evil in increasingly black and white terms, a tendency that hasn't been so pronounced since the Cold War.

The Cold War, McCarthyism, and the culture of fear

The Cold War was a struggle for world dominance between the capitalist United States and the communist USSR, characterized by intense hatred of the ideals of the other side. In America, this hatred reached its pinnacle in the early 1950s under the mantra of Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy.

On 9 February, 1950, McCarthy gave a speech in the town of Wheeling, West Virginia. According to the historian David Halberstam in his book *The Fifties*, "Almost casually, he claimed that there were Communists in the State Department, and that they controlled American foreign policy." He claimed he had a list of 205 people who were not only members of the Communist Party but of a spy ring as well.

McCarthy could not have dreamed of the distrust and paranoia this offhand comment would foster among the American people, but over the next four years, McCarthy managed to convince many Americans that the enemy was not only living in their country, but controlling it too. In the end, McCarthy's accusations resulted in little more than "fear and headlines," according to Halberstam, but this fear and these headlines changed the American view of the Soviets from distrust to downright terror and hatred.

Once the Soviets successfully tested their first nuclear bomb in 1949, it was confirmed the Americans no longer had a monopoly over "weapons of mass destruction." The fear this knowledge caused prompted a number of public service announcements telling citizens what to do in case of a nuclear attack, including the infamous "Duck and Cover" video made in 1950.

In this video, a turtle named Bert is saunters along when suddenly, a monkey dangles a lit stick of dynamite in front of him. Luckily, Bert knows what to do, and manages to "duck and cover" in his shell before the dynamite goes off. All that remains after the explosion is a charred tree, but Bert is fine because he knew how to protect himself.

This video was shown to young children in school so they would know what to do during a nuclear attack: cover their heads and duck underneath their desks. Today, it is easy to brush things like this off as the product of a society naively facing a brand new threat many people didn't understand, yet we've seen surprisingly similar warnings

issued recently, and this excuse no longer holds any clout.

Today, the War on Terrorism, and the culture of fear

In 24 February's *TIME* magazine, Americans were told "What to look for—and what to do" in case of dirty bomb, chemical, or biological attacks. For a chemical attack: "Have emergency supplies of food and water in case public supply is disrupted or you are instructed to stay indoors. If you see signs of a chemical attack, such as people choking or tearing, move upwind from the area. If you must remain in place, seal vents, doors and windows."

In her *Globe and Mail* column of 1 March, Heather Mallick said that when the terrorist alert was upgraded from yellow to orange, it "...caused the deaths of several people who duct-taped themselves into a small space with plastic sheeting and suffocated, which any risk-averse person could have predicted," ironically enough.

Critics see these exaggerated fears and endless security alerts as a way to scare citizens away from dissent and to force them into accepting whatever actions the American government takes in their "War on Terrorism."

University of Toronto historian Dr Robert Bothwell says there are many parallels between American hysteria during the Cold War and today.

"Much of what's being said in the United States is startlingly anachronistic, and historians can recognize it easily enough. I'm just amazed at the ignorance of history, the lack of any sense of irony," says Bothwell.

"From what I remember about [the Cold War], every school had an air-raid siren on top of it, and when you visited



War Repeating Itself

the US you saw nuclear shelter signs virtually everywhere. A lot of effort was expended on civil defense. Today the emphasis seems to be put on individual prophylactics, even if they're ridiculous, like duct tape. Do these things accomplish their purpose? Probably not. However they do contribute to the idea that the government can be seen to be doing something, and that seems to be the main point. It's more an exercise in public reassurance than in security."

Retired
Canadian
historian
Dr Jack

Granatstein disagrees. "I actually think it's more just to make people feel part of what's going on. I don't think it's paranoia so much as a sense that all Americans are in this together."

Whatever the case, the American mood is becoming more fearful by the day, and the media is continually propagating this sense of alarm.

The real dangers

The trauma Americans experienced on 11 September is understandable and can be sympathized with. Nonetheless, promoting fear, distrust and paranoia—to the extent America did during the Cold War and is doing again today—tends to cause a lot more problems than it solves.

The more afraid American citizens become of "the enemy," the more likely they are to ostracize or attack anyone they see as a potential threat. This was common in the McCarthy era, when a number of Hollywood actors and directors were blacklisted, people were fired from positions in the government, public schools, and universities, and others were generally harassed, all on the vague suspicion they might be Communists.

Today the American government reserves the right to hold people for indefinite periods of time without charging them if they're perceived to be terrorists. Camp X-Ray, the American military detention centre in Cuba, where there have been allegations of torture used against people captured in Afghanistan, has been the subject of international outcry.

The extent of the paranoia in the United States has resulted in a loss of civil liberties for some, including a number of Canadians held indefinitely for illegally crossing a national boundary that used to be the longest undefended border in the world.

Indeed, even Canadians legally entering the United States are being fingerprinted and subjected to extra security if they were born in certain countries, therefore seen as a potential terrorist threat.

All of these unprecedented actions show a decreased tolerance for dissent in America, a danger in and of itself. A reduction of civil liberties and intolerance of dissent curtails the democratic freedoms Americans are so proud of.

Have the terrorists already won?

In the 8 March edition of the *Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune*, journalist Catherine Watson told the story of what it was like growing up during the Cold War. She was so affected by the fear instilled in her that she developed an obsessive-compulsive disorder and still hasn't completely gotten over it to this day.

"That is why I can't be scared when a color-coded alert comes out," she wrote. "But they make me feel a little sick, because I know how scared some children can be. My parents talked to me as softly and calmly as parents are being advised to do now. I promise you: you can tell kids they'll be safe, over and over, to your heart's content. [But] there will still be some who won't believe you. Who will stay scared to their souls. Who will be scared for life by their terror."

"I actually think it's more just to make people feel part of what's going on. I don't think it's paranoia so much as a sense that all Americans are in this together."
DR JACK GRANATSTEIN

Watson was "scared for life" by the Cold War, and there is no doubt there will be countless children in America who will never be the same because of the way the government has treated the threat of terrorism since 11 September. In a sense, this is exactly what the terrorists wanted to accomplish: the paralysis of a nation seemingly focused exclusively on a war with Iraq, the destruction of democratic principles within their own country, and the development of an international hatred towards America for its actions since 11 September.

WORDS Kristine Owram
PHOTOS Nik Bolianatz, Matt Frehner, Leanne Brown and supplied by National Archives & Records Administration



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

por nada CD release party

with the Tom Cruise Missile and Go Convals
The PowerPlant
Thursday, 20 March at 8:30pm

Por nada doesn't sound like an ordinary rock band. While mainstream radio stations are playing snooze-inducing tracks from bands like Nickelback, por nada is trying to make music that is actually interesting to hear.

Choosing the genre of math rock, por nada aims to play fast, precision music. The square root of their music usually results in a value of "good times," if you're using the right calculator.

To celebrate the release of their upcoming CD, the band is having a party at the Plant. Hopefully this new disc will allow por nada to achieve a higher level of success. Maybe we might even start hearing them on the Bear regularly.



The por nada gang

The Med Show

Myer Horowitz
20-23 March at 7pm

Sometimes being cooped up and forced to study all the time makes you a bit strange. When you're finally allowed to let your energy out, it comes in an orgasm of creativity and stupidity.

And that pretty much sums up the annual Med Show—some of the hardest working students on campus letting loose and performing a variety show for charity.

Over the years, the Med Show has been pretty raunchy yet almost always interesting to experience. It's worth it to see what all that studying accomplishes.

The Plaid Tongued Devils

by Danielle French
Friday, 21 March at 10pm

The Plaid Tongued Devils aren't Celtic rock—at least not entirely. They classify themselves as a band like Tea Party doing Cabaret or No Doubt doing Fiddler on the Roof.

Keeping the Devils in line with other bands makes them look less original than they really are, however. How many rock bands do you know have an electric violin as one of their regular instruments? Only cool ones.

And at last count that number was in the single digits.

The Waifs

Myer Horowitz
Wednesday, 24 March at 8pm

A few years ago the Waifs made their presence known in Edmonton with a smash performance at the Folk Festival. Following that up with a key show at the Horowitz right after, and another appearance at Folk Fest last year, the Waifs have almost become an Edmonton institution...from Australia.

This folk-pop trio is popular for a reason. Their songs are both catchy and poignant without being cheesy or too commercial.

They end up being an act you can enjoy with your parents, but in a good way.

DANIEL KASZOR
Circulation Manager

The Weakerthans opt for life without genre

The Weakerthans

with guests
Grant MacEwan College
Friday, 21 March

ERIKA THORKESSON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Weakerthans are a little bit confused about what exactly they do. Formed in 1997, the Winnipeg foursome has dabbled in so many different kinds of music, they're not even sure where they fit anymore.

"Let's say we're just a punk rock band that got confused along the way, and maybe should have stopped being a punk rock band, and maybe should have become another kind of band," says guitarist/back-up vocalist Steve Carroll, with a sense of humour as dry as a Winnipeg winter.

"I think that's what we sound like, maybe. I don't really know anymore; I can't tell," he says. "After we just finished recording this last record, I'm a little dizzy with what kind of band we are anymore. We try to be a lot of things. I know we try to represent ourselves in a different manner that includes all the tastes and desires we have musically. It all ends up being a bit of a jumble—a punk rock band with ballads, maybe?"

The style of the band, which also includes John K Samson (guitar/lead vocals), John Sutton (bass) and Jason Tait (drums), ranges from the catchy power pop of songs like "Anchorless," to the mournful ode dedicated to the last days of a relationship of "None of the Above." But what strings it all together is their lack of fear about their own roots. Their first two albums, *Follow and Left and Leaving*, are contemplations on everyday life in the prairies that are both daringly universal and touchingly personal.

The influences may seem contradictory, but Carroll promises you can expect the same mish-mash from their soon-to-be-released third album, *Reconstruction Site*. He promises there'll



SUPPLIED: SCHLEIBERTZ

TOGA-TACULAR The Weakerthans will toga it up at Grant MacEwan this Friday.

be "searing revelations, life-affirming moments, sorrow, bliss, some laughs and a good album to abuse substances to or drive soberly through the countryside to."

When it comes down to it, Carroll's only all-encompassing description of his band is a "rock and roll ensemble that plays music of various styles, and travels the world making fools of themselves in front of large groups of strangers."

But, it's no wonder they're a little confused. In the last few years Winnipeg's become a hotbed of conflicting artistic signals that created people like maverick filmmaker Guy Maddin and activist punk act Propagandhi.

"We are isolated, much like Edmonton is as well," explains Carroll. "Maybe we're a little more isolated, I'll venture to say that. We have to create our own entertainment. That's what we do. Because all these bands, the Stones, whatever, they don't come here. You know, bands don't travel here. Movies don't come here. Major plays don't end up here. We're left to our own

resources on the frontier, you know?"

The question is, how will they fare this weekend when they play at Grant MacEwan for what's been advertised as a toga party? Carroll has no idea.

"Sounds great and scary," he laughs. "That's entirely ridiculous. I look forward to the moment. It presents a whole new set of challenges for the band to go out there and try our best to pretend we're not playing to a room full of people wearing togas."

And while he himself has never been to a toga party, he has witnessed them in the past.

"A friend of mine's cabin had neighbours who always had toga parties," he remembers. "We'd see them drifting in and out of the bushes at night and it was kind of weird when we were twelve."

Hopefully the half-naked bodies in the audience won't prove too daunting for the boys from the cold Manitoba prairies. After all, they always wear parkas out there, right?

Johnny shouldn't cash in his chips yet

CHRIS
KRAUSE



A&E
Commentary

Despite his age, the Man in Black still churns out tunes that are heartfelt and soulful, which is more than can be said for most modern musicians

Man in Black.

First, we must remember that Cash has always tended towards the grimmer, darker side of country. Cash's repertoire contains the expected love songs and rehashings of American ballads. And, not unlike bluesgrass legend Ralph Stanley, it also contains harrowing tales of madness and murder, executed with an unparalleled gravity and legitimacy (his 1957 hit "Folsom Prison Blues" contains the now-legendary line "I shot a man in Reno / Just to watch him die"). Music website NME.com reports that the "Hurt" video has moved to tears such rockers as Zach de la Rocha and Trent Reznor.

Cash, therefore, has more in common with a sincere, emotionally wrought band like NIN than with a hundred posers who try to emulate the sound but fail to retain the soul.

Secondly, Johnny Cash, as a musician and as a legendary personality, transcends all barriers of genre and style. Cash's dark video "Della's Gone" starred supermodel Kate Moss; he was nominated for a Grammy this year for a collaboration with Fiona Apple; and Cash's last video? A cover of Soundgarden's "Rusty Cage." Cash has covered or collaborated with innumerable artists, includ-

ing Tom Waits, Beck, U2, Leonard Cohen, Tom Petty, and Glenn Danzig, a founding member of the Misfits.

Cash, therefore, has more in common with a sincere, emotionally wrought band like NIN than with a hundred posers who try to emulate the sound but fail to retain the soul.

Unfortunately, Johnny Cash's half-century career will not last forever. At 71, he is often prone to hospitalizations, most recently for pneumonia. But Cash, member of both the Rock and Roll and Country Music Halls of Fame, could perform until he was 150 and not lose a single drop of the passion, soul, and vigour that have made a legend without equal and an artist without boundary.

Poolhall Junkies is like chunky peanut butter

Poolhall Junkies

Directed by Marc Callahan
Starring Mars Callahan, Chazz Palminteri, Rick Schroder, Rod Steiger,
and Christopher Walken
Opens Friday, 21 March

PAUL VARGA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Anyone who names a kid Mars sets the poor offspring up for a life of either professional stunt biking, intergalactic alien fighting, or moviemaking. Mars Callahan chose the path of Hollywood, and he and his first big screen *sotiré*, *Poolhall Junkies*, debut in theatres this Friday.

Callahan is essentially a poor man's Vince Vaughn—all of the spiky hair and none of the *Swingers* personality. And that's precisely the feeling you get after leaving this film. The previews compare it to the legendary cool of *The Hustler*, the Paul Newman pool-playing flick of decades past. It compares in the same way no-name peanut butter compares to Kraft without nuts: half the flavour, half the smooth.

After ten years of trying to get *Poolhall Junkies* made, Callahan, the actor/director/writer, eventually got lucky when he attracted the attention of Christopher Walken. Other Hollywood notables, such as Chazz Palminteri, Rick Schroder and Rod Steiger, soon joined the fray when they heard of Walken's endorsement of the script.

Their performances are the highlights, and they are thankfully spread throughout the film to get you past everyone else's acting. There are many scenes in *Poolhall Junkies* that are so overlaid by the junior actors that it becomes painfully obvious they feel excited to be in the same film as Walken and Palminteri—or maybe just to be in a film, period.

The storyline centres around Johnny (Callahan), a young pool protégé who yearns to become a professional player. His mentor Joe (Palminteri) tries to prevent Johnny's dreams in favour of more bustling Johnny eventually ditches Joe to try to eke out a legitimate living.

The film follows Johnny's quest for legitimacy, success and love amid the smoky poolhalls and parlour tricks of an American city. Along the way, Johnny's younger brother Danny (Michael Rosenbaum) and his lame entourage get involved with Joe's plots for revenge against Johnny, while Mike the wealthy lawyer (Walken)—also the uncle of Johnny's girlfriend, Tara—becomes Johnny's new backer and biggest fan.

Without giving too much away, there is the eventual final showdown between Joe's new protégé Brad (skillfully underplayed by Schroder) and Johnny, which was entertaining and not entirely predictable.

The best things about *Poolhall Junkies* are the pool tricks, many of which are done by the actors themselves, and Walken's speech about a



Christopher Walken stares at balls.

lion on the Nature Channel, vaguely reminiscent of his infamous "watch in the ass" monologue from *Pulp Fiction*. I say vaguely, because the speech just reminds you of past movies that were better able to portray this plotline and these actors on screen.

If you want something smooth as Kraft peanut butter, go rent *The Hustler*, *Usual Suspects*, or *Pulp Fiction*. If you want a thicker and chunkier version of cool, go see this movie. And with the discovery that the peanut butter metaphor does have its limits, I'm going for a sandwich.

Muniz is far too old

Agent Cody Banks

Directed by Harold Zwart
Starring Frankie Muniz, Hilary Duff,
and Angie Harmon
Now playing

ERIKA THORKELSON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Am I getting old or do 15-year-olds just keep getting younger?

As the titular character of the newest kid-spy movie, *Agent Cody Banks*, Frankie Muniz looks more like he should be playing *GI Joe* rather than a real-life game of Bond seducing the ladies. But then, I guess that's kind of the point of the movie.

I think you pretty much know the plot already—Cody Banks is a normal kid who was recruited to the CIA at summer camp. As an agent, he's both blindingly intelligent and daring, but as a 15-year-old boy, he's a complete loser.

Eventually he has to go save the world from a race of nanites (think *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) that has been bred to eat everything in site, including human flesh.

But enough about the movie. The more interesting phenomenon here is Muniz himself. Throughout this film, you can both track the changes in what kids look like in movies and you can get a first-hand view of a child actor on his way down.

You see, in the mid to late '90s, 15-year-olds were played by people like Luke Perry who, I'm pretty sure, started shaving before I was out of diapers. This was good because it made older people feel younger and young people feel... even younger. These kids

didn't have skinny arms or ears that were too big for their head. No, they were something we could look forward to. They were gods.

Muniz is more of a Fred Savage around the time he made that giant ad for Nintendo that was *The Wizard*. And if you think about it, the parallels between the two are actually astounding. Both Savage and Muniz began their careers before puberty, as the driving force of their respective family sitcoms, *The Wonder Years* and *Malcolm in the Middle*.

Both have starred in a string of bad to extremely bad movies that were meant to play on their small-screen cuteness. And both manage only to get uglier as they get older.

The sad truth is that in real life, Muniz is actually 18-years-old. Watching *Agent Cody Banks* with this knowledge makes it a little like watching someone doing a third tequila shot: you know there'll be a fall soon and you know it's going to be really messy.

As *Malcolm in the Middle* continues to get less funny, Muniz will do more of these lame movies until he just disappears altogether.

Even Macaulay Culkin had the brains to stop in 1994 at the age of 14, rather than wait to realize he wasn't about to get any more marketable after his voice changed. But then you never know, maybe Frankie Muniz will change his name to Franklin Muniz and join a Shakespeare troupe in Britain while he waits out the more painful years of adolescence and then eventually returns with Julia Roberts-like stamina to rebuild his career.

You never know.

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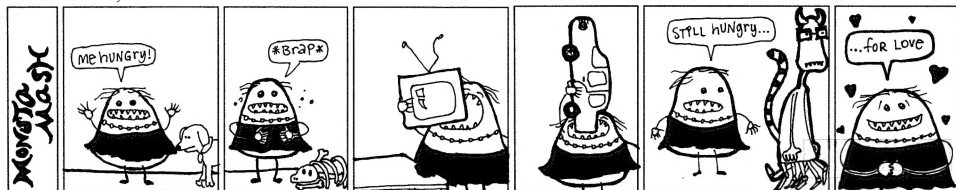


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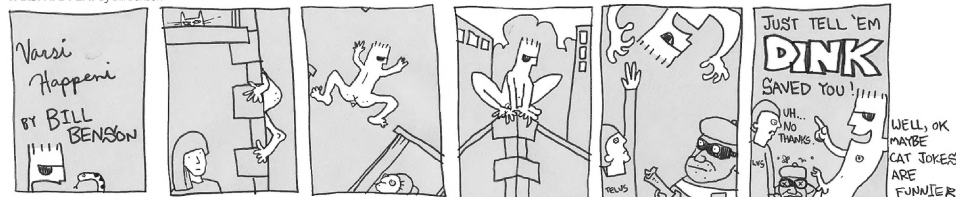


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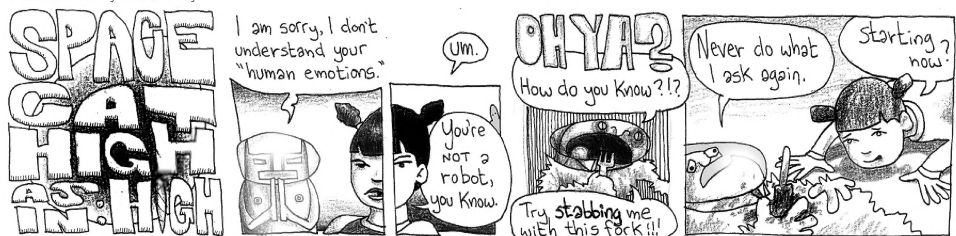
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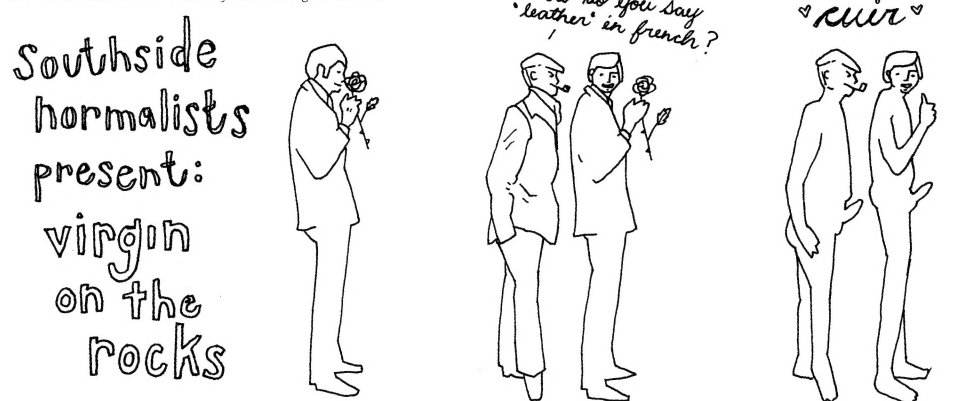
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LOST & FOUND

Found Tuesday in SUB, designer monogram scarf. Call 492-6669 to identify and claim.

THREE LINES FOR A TOONIE

I shall chase him round the tripple twenty, round the inner bizzulizze and round perdition's flames before I give him up. 27-23.

I got my first real six-string, bought it at the five-and-dime. Played it till my fingers bled it was the summer of '69.

Wow. Only four more papers left. Can you believe it's almost the end of the year? gah.

I don't mean to brag or anything, but it turns out that my baby (and I mean that in a "I may own her, but she owns me" way—I'm no misogynist) is a Southside Normalist. I suggest you do some research to figure out how that affects who'll employ you in the not-so-distant future. Let's just say the Normalists make a decapitation attack look like a pat on the back, a JDAM Satellite-guided missile like being gently scratched by a thistle, and a taken-over Baghdad radio station like a sexy but questionable relation. That is all, but don't take my word for it. Figure it out yourself, for your own good—and the world's. —RBI

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ASTRONO WATCH

Keeping an eye on the sky...

Spring is sprung, the grass is green... not really. Shit, I don't know. All I do know is that tonight at 6pm, the Sun will cross the equator, moving north. This means that, in our hemisphere—the good one—spring will officially have begun. While in the other hemisphere—the crappy one—it'll be the start of fall. Let's all take a moment to laugh at those poor bastards living down there. HAHAAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!

OK, my crazies are done for the week. But apparently scientists at the University of California aren't done with theirs. Apparently they've identified about 150 possible extra-terrestrial signals. The chief scientist of SETI@home says they're hopeful to discover an extra-terrestrial civilization within the next hundred years. We'll see, crackpot, we'll see...

Tonight, look for Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, shining in the southern sky right after dark. And come to the campus observatory Or else.

Oh, and under penalty of a quick but extremely painful death, I've been asked to mention that the posters from the PEPS campaign are now for sale by charitable donation of at least one dollar. The proceeds of the sales will go to a politically-neutral, non-religious campus charity yet to be determined. Hopefully it'll be the "Buy astronogri a laptop" charity, but somehow I don't think so. The posters will be available in oqo-E SUB basement (in the club area).

Peace out, and nerdyatshit.

No, silly. It's not astrology; it's astronomy. *AstronoWatch* is a weekly feature published every Tuesday. Our resident astronomer, **Kati Kovacs**, sets the stage for the cosmos, and invites you up to the Campus Observatory every Thursday evening at 8:00pm. Just take the elevator in the Physics Building up to the sixth floor, and then the stairs up to the seventh floor. Walk out onto the roof and check out the view with the University's telescopes.

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